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# TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT COUP PLANS AND HESITATIONS OF GENERALS

DATE DISTR. 7 SEPTEMBER 1963

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

IN 15091

FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. TOP VIETNAMESE GENERALS ARE STILL CONSIDERING A COUP, BUT THEY HAVE THUS FAR FAILED TO TAKE ACTION BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE ALMOST COMPLETELY CERTAIN OF SUCCESS BEFORE ACTING AND BECAUSE THEY ARE HESITATING BETWEEN 3 OR 4 ALTERNATIVE PLANS OF ACTION.

[REDACTED]  
CHARACTERIZED GENERALS [REDACTED] AS "ALMOST TOO INTELLIGENT" THEY SEE THE DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS TOO CLEARLY.

2. THE BASIC PROBLEM FOR THE GENERALS IS THAT THEY HAVE NO TROOPS. ONE WAY TO OBTAIN THEM WHICH THE GENERALS ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING WOULD BE TO PERSUADE ONE REGIMENTAL OR DIVISION

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STATE/INR

DIA

ARMY/ACSI

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AIR

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COMMANDER WITH A SECURE TERRITORIAL BASE TO GO INTO DISSIDENCE. GENERAL [REDACTED] WITH HIS FOLLOWERS WOULD MOVE INTO THE REBEL ZONE AND CALL UPON THE ARMY TO RALLY TO HIM AS CHIEF OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, AGAINST THE DIEM GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED] COMMENT. WITH GENERAL LE VAN TY NOW IN THE US AND PROBABLY DYING OF CANCER, GENERAL MINH IS THE SENIOR GENERAL OF THE VIETNAMESE ARMY.) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE AIR FORCE WOULD NOT BOMB SUCH A REBEL ZONE. [REDACTED] THE GENERALS CONSIDERED THIS PLAN WORKABLE, AS BEING MORE SURE OF SUCCESS THAN A PLAN TO SEIZE SAIGON BY SURPRISE. [REDACTED] COMMENT. THE CHANCES OF SUCH A PLAN SUCCEEDING WOULD, [REDACTED] BE 70 TO 80 PERCENT.) ITS PRINCIPAL DISADVANTAGE WAS THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE BLOODSHED, AS IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSUMED THAT TROOPS LOYAL TO DIEM AND NHU WOULD DEFEND SAIGON.

3. [REDACTED] DID NOT DISCUSS ANY OTHER OF THE 3 OR 4 PLANS FOR A COUP WHICH ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. [REDACTED] DID INDICATE THAT WHILE [REDACTED] IS THE PRINCIPAL DAI VIET CONTACT WITH THE GENERALS, [REDACTED] WAS THEIR MAIN CONTACT WITH FIELD GRADE OFFICERS.

4. TRAN QUOC BUU, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF VIETNAMESE WORKERS (CVTC) WAS, [REDACTED], A FOLLOWER MORE THAN A LEADER. HE WOULD ONLY ACT AFTER GENERALS HAD ACTED. THE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT EVERYONE SEEMED TO WAITING FOR

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SOMEONE ELSE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE (THE AMBASSADOR ONLY) USMACV [REDACTED]

CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF.

END OF MESSAGE

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FORM 1K-1  
1-63

USE PREVIOUS  
EDITIONS

MFG. 2-63

(15-20-44-47)

CONTINUATION OF TDCS INFORMATION REPORT